



❑ Scam Alert ❑

[#NOVA](#) Residents Getting Scam Calls from VSP “Trooper”

The Virginia State Police Wytheville Division Headquarters has received 50+ phone calls from individuals living in [#NorthernVirginia](#) & neighboring states inquiring about a phone call from a VSP "trooper." The scammer has "spoofed" a legitimate VSP phone number with a 276 area code so he can appear credible.

The caller identifies himself/herself as a representative of the Virginia State Police and says the individual has a warrant out for his/her arrest, must turn him/herself in and then demands payment be made in order to avoid arrest. The caller may request credit card information, bank account information or payment in the form of a gift card.

The Virginia State Police never calls individuals to notify one of an arrest warrant. The Virginia State Police never requests payment for any service, debt, etc. over the phone. These scammers can get very aggressive and be very convincing in their demands, and are also using legitimate Virginia State Police phone numbers to call from - known as "spoofing." Virginians are advised to simply hang up on the scammer and to never give out any personal information.

Again, Virginia State Police will never solicit funds from the public in any manner and do not give any personal information to someone alleging to be doing so. If you feel you have been a victim of any scam, report it to your local law enforcement agency.

**THE SCAM**

- Caller is very convincing and claims to be a police officer/investigatror/Trooper or reaches you on WhatsApp.
- Caller ID shows a valid Virginia State Police Phone Number.
- Scammer falsel claims your identity has been stolen and you have a warrant for arrest. Then says you need to send money ASAP for the charges to be cleared.
- Scammer asks for money to be transferred or wired to an account or asks you to buy/send gift cards.

**THE TRUTH**

- Law Enforcement never contacts citizens by phone to request payment or to clear arrest warrants
- Law Enforcement never requests payment by/with gift cards
- Caller ID is not always accurate - it's very easy to spoof a phone number

**NEVER provide a credit card number or account information over the phone**

**Report Telephone scams to the [FTC](#)**

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**Awareness through information sharing**

This bulletin is the result of collaboration and cooperation from a variety of SHIELD programs and public safety orientated officials. Special thanks to the following partners.



VFC Shield

"Awareness Through Information Sharing"

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